Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 are canceled.

3 (Currently amended). A ~~the~~ method ~~of claim 2, further~~ comprising:

connecting a plurality of workstations in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;

implementing a grid across the network;

executing grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;

determining an activity state of a first workstation included in the grid, the activity state being indicative of a degree of current utilization of the first workstation by a local workload;

responding to a determination that the activity state of the first workstation indicates low utilization by assigning grid workload to the first workstation;

responding to a determination that the activity state of the first workstation indicates high utilization by determining a workstation preference for accepting grid workload on the first workstation when utilization is determined to be high;

responding to a determination that the workstation preference is yes by determining a delay level associated with ~~said~~ the grid workload and indicative of an extent to which ~~said~~ the grid workload will lock the resources of a workstation to which it is assigned; and

~~wherein, in response~~ responding to a determination that ~~said~~ the activity state indicates high utilization and that ~~said~~ the workstation preference is yes by assigning ~~said~~ the grid workload to ~~said~~ the first workstation only if ~~said~~ the delay level indicates that ~~said~~ the grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a threshold.

4 (Currently amended). A ~~In a computer network including at least two workstations and implementing a grid for executing a grid workload on the shared~~

~~resources of the at least two workstations, a method of assigning said grid workload to one of the at least two workstations, the~~ method comprising:

connecting a plurality of workstations in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;

implementing a grid across the network;

executing grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;

monitoring a utilization level indicative of the extent to which a local workload is utilizing the resources of a first workstation ~~of the at least two workstations~~ and setting a first workstation activity state to a selected one of three conditions;

a first condition being idle if ~~said~~ the utilization level is below a first threshold;

a second condition being active if ~~said~~ the utilization level is above ~~said~~ the first threshold and ~~said~~ the first workstation activity level is already idle or active; and

a third condition being blocked if ~~said~~ the utilization level is above ~~said~~ the first threshold and ~~said~~ the first workstation activity state is already blocked; and

checking ~~said~~ the first workstation activity state;

in response to a first workstation activity state of idle, assigning grid workload to ~~said~~ the first workstation;

in response to a first workstation activity state of active, determining a first workstation preference for accepting ~~said~~ grid workload when ~~said~~ the first workstation activity state is active;

in response to a determination that ~~said~~ the first workstation preference is yes, assigning ~~said~~ grid workload to ~~said~~ the first workstation;

in response to a determination that ~~said~~ the first workstation preference is no:

setting ~~said~~ the first workstation activity state to blocked; and

holding ~~said~~ grid workload for assignment to another ~~of the at least two workstations~~ workstation; and

in response to a first workstation activity state of blocked, holding ~~said~~ grid workload for assignment to another ~~of the at least two workstations~~ workstation.

5 (Currently amended). The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

determining a delay level associated with ~~said~~ grid workload and indicative of the extent to which ~~said~~ grid workload will lock the resources of a workstation to which it is assigned, and:

~~wherein~~ in response to a first workstation activity state of active and a first workstation preference of yes, assigning ~~said~~ grid workload to ~~said~~ the first workstation only if ~~said~~ the delay level indicates that the grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a second threshold.

Claims 6 through 8 are canceled from this application, subject to the right of applicant to present those claims in a continuing application.

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled.

11 (Currently amended). Apparatus ~~The system of Claim 10 further~~ comprising:

a plurality of workstations connected together in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;

computer executable instructions stored accessibly to and executing on said plurality of workstations which, when executing, implement a grid across the network and execute grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;

a workstation monitor operatively associated with said workstations which determines

(a) an activity state of a first workstation, the activity state being

indicative of a degree of current utilization of said first workstation by a local workload; and

(b) a workstation preference for accepting grid workload on said first workstation when utilization is high;

a grid workload monitor ~~for determining~~ which determines a delay level associated with ~~said~~ the grid workload and indicative of the extent to which ~~said~~ the grid workload will lock the resources of a workstation to which ~~it~~ the grid workload is assigned; and ~~wherein~~;

~~said~~ a workstation scheduler which:

(c) in response to a determination that the activity state indicates low utilization of said first workstation assigns grid workload to said first workstation; or

(d) in response to a determination that the activity state indicates high utilization of said first workstation checks the workstation preference of said first workstation and in response to a ~~and that said~~ workstation preference ~~is~~ of yes, ~~further~~ assigns ~~said~~ the grid workload to said first workstation only if ~~said~~ the delay level indicates that ~~said~~ the grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a threshold; or

(e) in response to a workstation preference of no holds the grid workload for assignment to another workstation.

12 (Currently amended). Apparatus ~~In a computer network including at least two workstations and implementing a grid for executing grid workload on the shared resources of the at least two workstations, a system for assigning said grid workload to one of the at least two workstations, the system~~ comprising:

a plurality of workstations connected together in a network, each workstation having available resources which are shared with other workstations across the network;

computer executable instructions stored accessibly to and executing on said plurality of workstations which, when executing, implement a grid across the

network and execute grid workload on the resources which are shared among the plurality of workstations;

a workstation monitor ~~for monitoring~~ which

(a) monitors a utilization level indicative of the extent to which a local workload is utilizing the resources of a first workstation ~~of the at least two workstations~~ and ~~setting~~ sets a first workstation activity state to a selected one of three conditions;

a first condition being idle if ~~said~~ the utilization level is below a first threshold;

a second condition being active if ~~said~~ the utilization level is above ~~said~~ the first threshold and ~~said~~ the first workstation activity level is already idle or active; and

a third condition being blocked if ~~said~~ the utilization level is above ~~said~~ the first threshold and ~~said~~ the first workstation activity state is already blocked; and

(b) determines ~~determining~~ a first workstation preference for accepting ~~said~~ grid workload when said first workstation activity state is active; and

a workload scheduler ~~for~~ which:

(c) checks ~~checking~~ said first workstation activity state;

(d) in response to a first workstation activity state of active, checks ~~checking~~ said first station preference;

(d1) in response to a first workstation preference of yes, assigns ~~assigning said~~ grid workload to said first workstation;

(d2) in response to a first workstation preference of no:

(d2a) sets ~~setting~~ said first workstation activity to blocked;

(d2b) holds ~~holding said~~ grid workload for assignment to another workstation ~~of the at least two workstations~~; and

(e) in response to a first workstation activity state of blocked, holds ~~holding said~~ grid workload for assignment to another workstation ~~of the at least two workstations~~.

13 (Currently amended). The apparatus ~~system~~ of Claim 12, further comprising:

a grid workload monitor which determines ~~for determining~~ a delay level associated with ~~said~~ grid workload and indicative of the extent to which ~~said~~ grid workload will lock the resources of a workstation to which ~~it~~ grid workload is assigned, and wherein said workload scheduler, in response to a first workstation activity state of active and a first workstation preference of yes, assigns ~~said~~ grid workload to said first workstation only if ~~said~~ the delay level indicates that ~~said~~ the grid workload will lock the workstation resources to an extent below a second threshold.

Claims 14 through 16 are canceled from this application, subject to the right of applicant to present those claims in a continuing application.